

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) In an access network, a method for the communication of services ~~to and from~~between a central office and customer premises, comprising:

transmitting services from said central office to said customer premises through a passive optical downstream path having a first termination at said central office and a second termination at said customer premises using an end-to-end passive optical downstream path; and

receiving services from said customer premises at said central office from an active optical upstream path having a first termination at said customer premises and a second termination at said central office using an active optical upstream path.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said passive optical downstream path comprises a means for splitting optical signals.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein said means for splitting optical signals comprises an optical power splitter.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said active optical upstream path comprises:

at least one receiver for receiving services from said customer premises intended for upstream transmission; and

at least one switch for aggregating and multiplexing upstream traffic.

7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 6, wherein said active optical upstream path further comprises:

at least one transmitter for transmitting ~~the~~ aggregated services upstream.

8. (Currently amended) An apparatus for the communication of services ~~to and from~~between a central office and customer premises in an access network, comprising:

a splitter ~~associated with an end-to-end passive optical path~~disposed in a passive optical downstream path, for splitting downstream services ~~intended for said customer premises~~transmitted from said central office through said passive optical downstream path;

at least one receiver disposed in an active optical upstream path, for receiving services ~~comprising optical signals from said customer premises intended for upstream transmission from said customer premises from said active optical upstream path~~; and

at least one switch disposed in said active optical upstream path for aggregating and multiplexing upstream traffic;

wherein said passive optical downstream path has a first termination at said central office and a second termination at said customer premises;

wherein said active optical upstream path has a first termination at said customer premises and a second termination at said central office.

9. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 8, further comprising:

at least one transmitter for transmitting ~~the~~ aggregated services upstream.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein said passive optical downstream path further comprises a repeater.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim ~~12~~8, wherein said active optical upstream path further comprises a transmitter.

14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein said splitter comprises a power splitter.

15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein said apparatus is located within a central office of an access network configured for point-to-point communication.

16. (Currently amended) An apparatus for the communication of services ~~to and from~~between a central office and customer premises in an access network, comprising:

at least one means for splitting downstream services ~~being transmitted through an end-to-end passive optical path intended for said customer premises~~transmitted from said central office through a passive optical downstream path;

at least one means for receiving services ~~comprising optical signals from said customer premises intended for upstream transmission from said customer premises from~~an active optical upstream path; and

at least one means for aggregating and multiplexing upstream traffic in said active optical upstream path;

wherein said passive optical downstream path has a first termination at said central office and a second termination at said customer premises;

wherein said active optical upstream path has a first termination at said customer premises and a second termination at said central office.

17. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 16, further comprising:
at least one means for transmitting ~~the~~ aggregated services upstream.

18. (Currently amended) A passive/active access network for the communication of services ~~to and from~~between a central office and customer premises, comprising:

a central office;

at least one customer premise; and

~~an active/passive access unit for providing communication between said central office and said at least one customer premise, wherein services from said central office intended for said at least one customer premise are communicated to said at least one customer premise using an end-to-end passive optical downstream path and services from said at least one customer premise intended for said central office are communicated to said central office using an active optical upstream path~~ said passive/active access network is adapted to:

transmit services from said central office to said customer premises through said passive optical downstream path, wherein said passive optical downstream path has a first termination at said central office and a second termination at said customer premises;
and

receive services from said customer premises at said central office from said active optical upstream path, wherein said active optical upstream path has a first termination at said customer premises and a second termination at said central office.

19. (Previously presented) The passive/active access network of claim 18, wherein said passive optical downstream path of said active/passive access unit comprises a means for splitting services from said central office.

20. (Currently amended) The passive/active access network of claim 18, wherein said active optical upstream link of said active/passive access unit comprises:

at least one means for receiving services from said at least one customer premise ~~intended for said central office;~~

at least one means for aggregating and multiplexing upstream traffic; and

at least one means for transmitting ~~the~~ aggregated services upstream to said central office.